

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 4, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 1123—"nay"; rollcall 1124—"yes"; rollcall 1125—"yes"; rollcall 1126—"yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLINT ODYSSEY HOUSE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Flint Odyssey House. On December 6th Flint Odyssey House will be holding an open house to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Odyssey Institute.

Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber began her career in substance abuse treatment in 1966 working with 17 heroin addicts. She quickly realized that for successful rehabilitation, the root causes of addiction had to be addressed. She developed a model of treatment that tackled the traumatic experiences in an addict's life and its impact on a person's well-being and self-image. The treatment methodology consists of five stages: Orientation, Cocoon Phase, Incubator Phase, Self-Awareness and Reformation Phase, and Butterfly Post-Treatment. From her treatment model, the Odyssey Institute was born and now operates in communities around the world.

Started in 1979 by Ronald Sahara Brown, Flint Odyssey House was a satellite program of the Detroit Rubicon Odyssey House. When the Detroit program was forced to close its doors, Ronald Brown kept the Flint Odyssey House open. He had \$300 in food stamps and the determination to make the program a success. As a former addict and a graduate of the program, Ronald knew firsthand how beneficial the Odyssey House concept of treatment could be to a recovering substance abuser. He invited clients of the closed Detroit Rubicon Odyssey House to join him in the Flint program. With a skeleton crew, he operated the program on a shoestring. His perseverance paid off, and the Michigan Department of Social Services and the Genesee County Commission on Substance Abuse started to provide financial assistance. From that first adult treatment center, the program has grown to provide a wide range of services.

Ronald Brown has expanded Flint Odyssey House to meet the needs of the community.

The treatment facility was located in a drug- and crime-infested neighborhood, and Ronald took to the streets, reclaiming and renovating the crack houses in the area. Starting the Treat the Streets Program, Flint Odyssey House reclaimed the area and earned Ronald Sahara Brown the title of Chief of Odyssey Village. Flint Odyssey House has moved from being a substance abuse treatment agency to a human development agency and is a model for programs throughout the United States. It operates many programs, and treats hundreds of persons, including pregnant addicts and mothers with children. Accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, Flint Odyssey House has expanded and now operates a program in Saginaw Michigan.

In 1993, Flint Odyssey House received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Clayton R. Stroup Award. In 1996 Ronald Sahara Brown was the recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award. Ronald used the \$100,000 stipend that came with this award to purchase and operate an old-age home in the neighborhood that was about to close. This kept the residents from being evicted and provided one more service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with and applaud the work of Ronald Sahara Brown, the staff, volunteers and the clients of Flint Odyssey House. Their courage and determination to bring out the potential in every human being is a brilliant example of the power in each and every one of us to effect change in our world. May they continue to provide service and compassion for many, many more years.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SANFORD HELLER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate my constituent, Mr. Sanford Heller of Rockville, Maryland, as he prepares to celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Heller was born on December 27, 1907 in The Bronx, New York and lived in New York City until he has 95. He owned his own home, mortgage free, for more than 50 years.

Mr. Heller has dedicated his life to public service and took part in events that shaped our nation. During the 1930s, he processed the arrival of new immigrants at Ellis Island. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After his military service, he held positions in Federal, State, and city government.

To this day, Mr. Heller keeps himself busy. He reads the New York Times cover to cover,

has traveled to over 35 countries, and can still fit into the same tuxedo he bought during the Great Depression. He is in excellent health, takes no medication, and walks every day.

Mr. Heller, a mandolin player, also enjoys entertaining for friends, family, and fellow residents of the Ring House, where he now resides. He was married to Ethel Heller for over 64 years until her death at age 92 in 2005. He has two children, five grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. I join with Mr. Heller's family and friends in wishing him a most joyous birthday. He has my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

RECOGNIZING NANCY CHANDLER AS AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, It has been said that "child abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime." Nancy Chandler has dedicated her life to changing this. For over 25 years, Nancy has advocated for children and improved their futures.

After receiving her Masters in Social Work from the University of Georgia, Nancy was the founding Executive Director of the Memphis Child Advocacy Center. This Center helps "victims become children again."

Since April 1994, Nancy Chandler has served as the Executive Director of the National Children's Alliance (NCA), a not-for-profit membership organization that represents more than 700 Children's Advocacy Centers. For 13 years, Nancy has led and managed NCA's finances, and developed resources, training, programs, communications, and membership services. Nancy also led and inspired a staff of dedicated advocates. As Executive Director of NCA, Nancy educated and motivated advocates at over 400 conferences and workshops across the United States.

Throughout her remarkable career in children's advocacy, Nancy was a member of Leadership Memphis and a founding board member of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. She also served on the National Advisory Committee for Darkness to Light, a primary prevention program aimed at reducing the incidence and consequence of child sexual abuse, and as Senior Warden of The Church of the Epiphany in Washington, DC. Nancy has proven herself as an experienced leader and a compassionate advocate for children.

And that's just the way it is.